

12 May 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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Subject: Summary of Actions Taken by EDAC and the Intelligence Community with Respect to COCOM Embargo of Video Tape Recorders and Multiplexing Equipment

I. Current Status

A. Video Recorder

The present status of video tape recorders, List Item 1572, is that a draft version of a US proposal was approved at an EDAC meeting held on 22 April 1966. This proposal would release video tape recorders designed for home and semi-professional use but would continue the embargo on studio-quality recorders.

B. Multiplex

The present status of multiplexing equipment, List Item 1523, is that the US delegation to COCOM has been under instructions to agree to relax embargo restrictions, to a 60-channel limit, for Eastern Europe and the USSR and a US commitment of sympathetic consideration for exception requests involving higher-capacity equipment destined for Eastern Europe. These instructions would bring about a relaxation of controls by means of a unilateral US declaration of position. The present wording of the embargo would be unchanged in order to obtain an implicit China differential. This position was adopted by the US as a bargaining tactic to obtain acceptance of a US proposal on computers. Since the US proposal on computers will apparently not be accepted, the US position at the insistence of the Defense member of EDAC will now be to accept no changes for List Item 1523.

C. Coaxial Cable

The status of coaxial-type communications cable, List Item 1525, is that the US will make known its willingness to relax controls on the export of all coaxial cable except submarine cable to destinations in Eastern Europe and the USSR. As in the case of multiplex equipment the proposed relaxation would be brought about by a unilateral US declaration of position. The present wording of Item 1525 would be unchanged in order to obtain an implicit China differential.

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